

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 W

----- 104565

R 231712Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5836

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 16299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, AU, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO AUSTRIA -
HUGH TRAVERS MORGAN

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT HUGH MORGAN (56) ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY WILL BE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA/ HE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP HIS POSITION AFTER THE FIRST OF THE NEW YEAR. AS ASSISTANT UNDER SEARETARY, A POST HE HAS OCCUPIED FOR A LITTLE OVER A YEAR, MORGAN HAS SUPERVISED THE WESTERN, SOUTHERN EUROPEAN AND WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS (NATO) DEPARTMENTS OD THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

2. THE CASUAL OBSERVER MIGHT BE INCLINED TO SIZE UP MORGAN AS A STANDARD STUFFY BRITISH DIPLOMAT, FOR HE HAS A NATURAL RESERVE AND DIFFIDENCE WHICH CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF ALOOFNESS. WHILE HE COULD HARDLY BE DESCRIBED AS WARM, MORGAN COMES ACROSS ON BETTER ACQUAINTANCE AS A GENUINELY FRIENDLY PERSON WITH AN AGREEABLE WRY SENSE OF HUMOR. HE HAS A PRECISE, WELL-DISCIPLINED MIND AND SPEAKS DELIBERATELY AND ARTICULATELY, ALTHOUGH ONE OCCASIONALLY HAS DIFFICULTY IN HEARING HIM SINCE HE HAS A TRACE OF A LISP AND A TENDENCY TO LOWER HIS NORMALLY SOFT TONE OF SPEECH A KEY OR TWO. HE IS A PERSON OF VARIED INTERESTS; ALTHOUGH SOME WOULD SAY THEY ARE TRANSITORY, THEY ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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CERTAINLY INTENSE. AFTER HIS SERVICE IN PEKING AND

MORE RECENTLY AFTER HIS POSTING TO LIMA, HE BECAME A KEEN FANCIER OF CHINESE AND ANDEAN ART. MORGAN IS A DIPLOMAT IN THE TRADITIONAL MOLD. HE MUST UNDOUBTEDLY BE COUNTED AS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE U.S., BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CAST HIM A MILITANT PRO-AMERICAN AS ARE SOME OF HIS SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICE COLLEAGUES. INTELLECTUALLY HE ACCEPTS THE DECLINE OF BRITISH POWER AND AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD AND ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANCE TO BRITAIN OF CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE U.S. ACROSS THE BOARD. WHEN MORGAN WAS HEAD OF THE WESTERL EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT IN THE LATE SIXTIES AND MORE RECENTLY WHILE ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, THIS EMBASSY ENJOYED A MOST SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN RESPONSIVE AND CANDID (WITHIN LIMITS) ABOUT THE INFORMATION HE HAS GIVEN US. A PRISONER OF WAR IN GERMANY FOR MOST OF HIS MILITARY SERVICE, MORGAN HAS AN EXCELLENT COMMAND OF GERMAN (AS WELL AS FRENCH). SERVICE IN MOSCOW, BERLIN, AS HEAD OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT AND LATELY AS ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY HAVE MADE HIM AS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE PROBLEMS OF CENTRAL EUROPE AS ANY SENIOR BRITISH DIPLOMAT. MRS. MORGAN (ALEXANDRA) IS A FASCINATING FOIL TO HER HUSBAND; HER SPARKLING, UNINHIBITED STYLE CONTRASTS VIVIDLY WITH MORGAN'S CLASSIC BRITISH RESERVE. THE DAUGHTER OF A SENIOR BULGARIAN DIPLOMAT OF THE OLD REGIME, SHE WAS EDUCATED IN SWITZERLAND. HER PENCHANT FOR PLAIN SPEAKING HAS UNDOUBTEDLY JOLTED BRITISH DIPLOMATIC WIVES, BUT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE ADVERSELY

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 W

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R 231712Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5837

AMEMBASSY LIMA

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AFFECTED MORGAN'S CAREER. SHE IS LIVELY COMPANY AND IT
IS ALWAYS A REFRESHING EXPERIENCE TO MEET HER ESPECIALLY
AT DREARY DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS.

3. THE ENTRY FOR MORGAN IN HM DIPLOMATIC LIST READS
AS FOLLOWS:

MORGAN, HUGH TRAVERS, CMG (1966); SINCE AUGUST 1974
ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY; BORN AUGUST 3, 1919; RAF
1939-45; FOREIGN OFFICE 1945; THIRD SECRETARY UNITED
KINGDOM MISSION TO UNITED NATIONS 1946; SECOND SECRE-
TARY MOSCOW 1948; FIRST SECRETARY FOREIGN OFFICE 1950;
CANADIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE 1953; HEAD OF
CHANCERY AND CONSUL MEXICO CITY 1954; FOREIGN OFFICE
1957; DISARMAMENT AND NUCLEAR TESTS DELEGATION GENEVA
1960; COUNSELOR AND CONSUL-GENERAL PEKING 1961;
POLITICAL ADVISER B.M.G. BERLIN 1964; HEAD OF WESTERN
DEPARTMENT FOREIGN OFFICE 1967; HEAD OF WESTERN EURO-
PEAN DEPARTMENT FCO 1968; H.M. AMBASSADOR LIMA MAY
1970-74. MARRIED: (1) 1946 ANN KEENLYSIDE (DISSOLVED
1952); (2) 1959 ALEXANDRA BELINOFF (2 S. 1960, 1961;
1 D. 1964).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON16299
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750368-0997
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751025/aaaaavvq.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO AUSTRIA - HUGH TRAVERS MORGAN
TAGS: PINR, AU, UK, (MORGAN, HUGH)
To: VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006